

CLAIMS

1. Method of determining a digital filter for seismic signals comprising the steps of:
 - 5 defining constraints representing a filter for preserving signals representing reflection and/or refractions from sub-surface structure and suppressing noise signals in seismic signals; and
 - using an iterative process with each iteration further
 - 10 comprising the steps of:
 - transforming a filter obtained from a previous iteration into a transform domain;
 - applying in said transform domain first constraints;
 - inverse transforming the filter with the applied
 - 15 constraints into a sample domain; and
 - applying in said sample domain second constraints to obtain an iterated filter.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein each step of the
- 20 iterative process includes the transform of the filter (coefficients) into the wavenumber or frequency-wavenumber domain and the inverse transform back into the spatial or temporal-spatial domain.
- 25 3. The method of claim 2 wherein in each step of the iterative process the filter is constrained to a predefined tolerance in the wavenumber or frequency-wavenumber domain.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein in each step of the
- 30 iterative process the filter is constrained to a predefined response outside a finite region in the spatial or temporal-spatial domain.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein in each step of the iterative process the filter is constrained to a predefined response outside a finite region in the spatial or temporal-spatial domain and in each step of the iterative process the filter is constrained to a predefined tolerance in the wavenumber or frequency-wavenumber domain.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is obtained by applying alternating projection onto constraints defining convex sets of square summable sequences .
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the transform sampling/periodicity matrix of the transform in Cartesian coordinates is non-diagonal.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of distributing groups of receivers or single sensor seismic receivers so as to obtain seismic measurements on a staggered or hexagonal grid.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of transforming comprises the use of a spatially staggered or hexagonal transformation.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of transforming the signals comprises the use of a spatially staggered or hexagonal Fourier transformation.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is a zero-phase finite impulse response (FIR) filter.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter has at least two dimensions.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is a 3D
5 filter.